(c) the measures taken for the safety and security of foreign tourists; and

(d) the measures taken to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Foreign tourists who have visited Indian during last two years is as under

Year	2007	2008
Foreign Tourist Arrivals	5081504	5366966

'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime including crimes against foreign tourists, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

However, in order to ensure the safety and security of foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police, in one form or the other. Ministry of Tourism has also circulated guidelines for formation of Tourist Security Organization(s) comprising Ex-Servicemen for the safety and security of tourists to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(d) To increase the Number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals, Ministry of Tourism through its India Tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities like advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars and workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion markers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry. Further, Ministry of Tourism also launched 'Visit India Year-2009' in collaboration with Hoteliers, Tour Operators, Airlines and other service providers in the tourism sector for incentivizing and attracting foreign tourists to the country.

Access to tourist destinations in Himachal Pradesh

2426. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct helipads to facilitate the access of foreign tourists as well as domestic, to those tourist destinations, which are situated on high top of hills in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) to what extent Government is likely to be benefited from the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism now provides Central Financial Assistance upto Rs.75.00 lakh to States and Union Territories for construction of heliports. Financial assistance is provided for construction of Heliports as a component under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of destinations in hilly and remote areas, lacking accessibility. Stand alone projects are inadmissible. Till now Ministry of Tourism has granted Central Financial Assistance for three destination projects that include development of Heliports *viz.* Destination Development of Mangan Tourist Axis including Heliport

in North Sikkim, Destination Development of Geetang Khola waterfall including Heliport in West Sikkim and Development of Tourist Infrastructure under Berfung-Ralong Constituency including Heliport at Chemchey in South Sikkim. However, no Heliport has been sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh so far.

Tourism concerns due to security

2427. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has slipped down to 23rd world ranking in terms of forex earning from tourism despite higher number of arrivals;

(b) whether security concerned intensified by the Mumbai terrorist attacks have made India an unattractive proposition for the foreign tourists; and

(c) if so, the initiatives taken by Government along with airlines, hotels and tour operators to minimize the impact of slowdown on India's tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (c) There was a growth in foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs), as well as foreign exchange earnings (FEE), from tourism in India in 2008 over 2007. However, the growth rates in FTAs and FEE from tourism during 2008 over 2007 were lower as compared to those observed during 2007 over 2006. The rank of India in FEE from tourism was 23rd in 2008 as compared to 22nd in 2007.

The estimated number of FTAs in India during January-November 2009 declined by 6.3% as compared to the corresponding period of 2008. This decline in FTAs may be due to various reasons including global financial slowdown, terrorist activities, H1N1 pandemic, etc.

Ministry of Tourism (MOT) has launched "Visit India 2009" Scheme in April 2009 in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India.

In addition, to increase the number of FTAs, Ministry of Tourism, through its India tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars and workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Capital subsidy to Hotels

†2428. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.